

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of the Inspector General

Inspector General



October 9, 2020

Barbara J. Bazron, Ph.D.
Director
Department of Behavioral Health
64 New York Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

LaQuandra S. Nesbitt, MD, MPH
Director
D.C. Department of Health
899 N. Capitol St., N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Dr. Bazron and Dr. Nesbitt:

My Office's Inspections and Evaluations (I&E) Unit will soon start an evaluation of the District of Columbia Opioid Crisis Response Program. The objectives for this project, which is part of the OIG's *Fiscal 2021 Audit and Inspection Plan*,¹ are to assess whether the District of Columbia is: (1) effectively managing the opioid program funds and resources; (2) conducting training and distributing Naloxone kits at identified levels; and (3) meeting the goals of the "LIVE. LONG. DC." plan.

I&E projects are conducted under the *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation* promulgated by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency. As a matter of standard practice, our inspections and evaluations pay particular attention to the quality of internal control.²

Please provide Edward Farley, Assistant Inspector General for Inspections and Evaluations, with the name and telephone number of the person who will serve as the primary point of contact at your respective agency during the evaluation. You can reach Mr. Farley at (202) 727-9249 or edward.farley@dc.gov.

¹ This document is accessible on the OIG website at: <https://oig.dc.gov/>.

² "Internal control" is defined by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) as comprising "the plans, methods, policies, and procedures used to fulfill the mission, strategic plan, goals, and objectives of the entity" and is "not one event, but a series of actions that occur throughout an entity's operations." Furthermore, internal control is a process that provides "reasonable assurance that the objectives of an entity will be achieved," "serves as the first line of defense in safeguarding assests," and is an "integral part of the operational processes management uses to guide its operations." U.S. GOV'T ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE, STANDARDS FOR INTERNAL CONTROL IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT 5-6, GAO-14-704G (Sept. 2014).

Mr. Farley will schedule an entrance conference with the points of contact you identify. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. I look forward to working with the Department of Behavioral Health and the Department of Health in our joint efforts to improve the quality of services provided to District stakeholders.

Sincerely,



Daniel W. Lucas
Inspector General

DWL/ef

cc: Mr. Kevin Donahue, Interim City Administrator, District of Columbia
Mr. Wayne Turnage, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, District of Columbia
The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia
The Honorable Vincent C. Gray, Chairperson, Committee on Health, Council of the District of Columbia
The Honorable Brandon T. Todd, Chairperson, Committee on Government Operations, Council of the District of Columbia
The Honorable Kathy Patterson, D.C. Auditor, Office of the D.C. Auditor, Attention: Cathy Patten